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First California prisoner to  
be executed in 25-years **PAGE 4**

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Santa Ana City Council may try  
to outlaw poverty **PAGE 6**

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The Lady Dons are in the  
hunt to make the playoffs **PAGE 8**

# RANCHO SANTIAGO COLLEGE

## el Don

Volume 68, Number 7

17th at Bristol Street Santa Ana, California 92706

April 24, 1992

## RSC in fiscal crisis, faces \$7 million in cuts

### Financial chief says college 'in trouble.'

By William Stewart Thomblison  
el Don Editor in Chief

ADMINISTRATION Santa Ana - RSC Chancellor Vivian Blevins said many people will be "squealing" as part-time employees are laid-off and other economy measures are taken at RSC.

About \$7 million must be cut from the college's fiscal 1992-93 budget, she said.

The college will start operating on the 1992-93 budget July 1.

Blevins says that despite the budget cuts, the next summer school schedule will remain at 1991 levels and that she will "be fighting tooth and nail to have at least as many classes next fall and spring as last year."

RSC's general reserve fund, which stood at over \$9 million less than two years ago, could shrink to less than \$1 million during the fiscal year if cuts are not made, according to Steven Garcia, vice-chancellor for fiscal services.

The balance in the reserve fund has been decreasing for several years. "You're in trouble when you start spending your reserve fund to balance your budget," Garcia said. "We're in trouble, in my opinion."

During fiscal year 1990-91, general fund revenues were only 96.2 percent of expenditures. At the end of the fiscal year (July 31, 1991), the general reserve fund was over \$8.8 million.

For the current fiscal year, the Board of Trustees adopted a budget that anticipated general fund income of about \$64.3 against expenditures of \$66.9, which would have

resulted in a revenue shortfall of almost \$2.6 million, reducing the school's general reserve to less than \$6.2 million.

Actual general fund revenues have been less than anticipated, partly because of a reduction in revenue from the state lottery, according to Garcia.

In addition, the trustees have voted to approve some expenditures not anticipated in the original budget. Some of these will be charged to next fiscal year's general fund.

About three-fourths of general fund expenditures are for salaries and benefits for Please see **BUDGET, Page 3**

### Prayerful Protest...



Cindy Licerio el Don

**ANGUISHED** - As lawyers and judges decide the fate of Robert Alton Harris, Mike Bucholtz, a youth minister from Castro Valley, joins in a vigil outside San Quentin. See detailed coverage, page 4.

## Health fee waived for over 15,000 Rancho students

■ Dean of Students is investigating the college's exemption regulations, because 38 percent of RSC's students are not paying mandatory fees.

By Thea Gavin  
el Don Staff Writer

SANTA ANA - More than 15,000 RSC students did not pay the 'mandatory' \$7.50 health fee last semester at the Santa Ana campus, even though it is required according to college policy.

Citing a concern for fairness, Dean of Students Dave Dobos said he was evaluating the college's reasons for exempting some students from paying the health fee, especially since the health center is facing cutbacks in services due to the college's continuing budget problems. "There are so many exemptions, you're looking at a whole floor full of loopholes," Dobos said. "It's like knotty pine."

Some student's fees are waived because of state law, Dobos said. This includes students receiving financial aid under the Board of Governors' Grants program, those enrolled in apprenticeship programs, and students who depend exclusively on prayer, such as Christian Scientists.

When venturing outside the legally dictated exemptions, judgment calls have to be made on who should pay the fee and who shouldn't, Dobos said.

Please see **HEALTH, Page 4**

### CHEATING: Part IV. In a series

## RSC lacks uniform cheating policy

By Kim Nelson  
el Don Staff Writer

Cheating... is it a "A question of honor" or a question of survival? Many faculty members are asking themselves these questions when trying to deal with this complicated problem that faces college campuses today.

Colleges and universities around the country are taking many different approaches: some have established academic honor codes, others are requiring students to take courses on academic integrity, most are requiring their

faculty take a more active role in heightening the awareness in their classrooms.

It has become standard practice on many campuses to hand out the school's policy on academic dishonesty on the first day of class. It's gone over by all instructors and sometimes signed by the students to insure they understand it.

Policies differ from department to department at RSC. Some taking a very ridged approach, handing out honesty guidelines and going

over them with the students. Others seem to be unaware of the problem.

"I take it personally when a student who has worked hard comes to me and tells me they saw someone cheating. After all it's my responsibility as a teacher to make sure the students are learning the material and it wouldn't be fair to those who really work hard," says Dan Goldman, biology instructor at RSC.

Goldman addresses the issue in a

12 page syllabus he gives to his students. "Any student who is caught or attempts to cheat on a quiz or exam will receive an F in the class. Likewise, any student whose quiz or exam is copied from will also receive an F in the class and the same policy applies to students who turn in homework," says Goldman.

Next semester Goldman plans to add honesty guidelines (outlining test-taking policies) to his course syllabus and requiring all of his Please see **CHEATING, Page 3**



## College Wire

### Parents File Suit In Bus Crash Death

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CPS)-The parents of one of the University of Notre Dame swimmers killed in a January bus crash have filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the bus company and bus driver.

Gordon and Kathy Beeler's daughter Margaret Beeler, 19, was one of two students who died when the bus in which they were traveling flipped on an icy Indiana highway in a snowstorm. Another student was seriously injured in the crash.

The suit claims that driver Howard Dixon and the bus company United Limo Inc. were negligent in the crash because Dixon was driving too fast for road conditions. The driver was unable to slow down while changing lanes, ultimately causing the bus to slide off the road and overturn, the suit alleges.

The National Transportation Safety Board has been investigating the crash and determined that mechanical problems were not the cause of the accident. Other findings have not yet been released.

The Beelers' suit does not name a specific dollar amount, but asks for compensation for funeral, burial and administration expenses as well as damages for lost love and affection.

### Coach Dropped From Lawsuit

(CPS)-The former coach of the Loyola Marymount men's basketball team has been dropped from a wrongful death suit filed after a player died in 1990.

Coach Paul Westhead, who now coaches the Denver Nuggets in the NBA, was named in a suit brought by the family of Hank Gathers, who died after collapsing during a Marymount game in the West Coast Conference tournament on March 4, 1990. Gathers was 23.

Gathers had collapsed earlier in the year and was diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat. An autopsy showed that Gathers died of inflammation and scarring of the heart.

An earlier wrongful death suit filed on behalf of Gathers' son already has been settled. Gathers' cardiologist paid \$650,000 to Gathers' son, while Loyola Marymount agreed to give the 8-year-old \$850,000. Westhead had also been named in that suit, but his name was dropped from it as well.

The settlement between the university and other members of Gathers' family is pending, with a trial date set in April.

Gathers led the nation in scoring during the 1988-89 basketball season.

### Homeless Man Goes To College

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (CPS)-A 28-year-old Jones College student spends his days in class, and his nights at the City Rescue Mission.

John Grazetti, a recovering alcoholic who is majoring in broadcasting, said he has nurtured the dream of being a sports announcer since he was a child in Mount Pleasant, Pa.

Peter Trenkler, chairman of the school's broadcasting department, said Grazetti is a "model student" and he wishes "there were more like him out there."

Grazetti is paying for his education with a grant and a student loan.

"I feel a little out of place. I'm staying here while everybody else has a home," he said.

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## Flying High...



Eric Campbell / el Don Photo

THE RIGHT STUFF- The Blue Angels precision flying team will perform Saturday and Sunday at El Toro Marine Air Station, as part of Orange County's air show. Admission and parking are free. Gates open at 7 a.m. both days.

## Note This

### Chapman University raises tuition by 15 percent

By Debi Carr  
el Don Staff Writer

ORANGE- Chapman University President James L. Doti, announced last month that the college is raising tuition costs for new students next fall by 15 percent, bringing yearly full-time tuition to \$14,936.

Chapman's increase, the largest in eight years, is nearly double the increase charged by other private universities throughout the nation, according to news sources.

Doti said the primary goal of the institution is to raise the current B- average of entering students by using some of the money towards offering more academic scholarships. By doing this the college hopes to improve the caliber of the institution, making it a nationally recognized small institution.

"We need to attract the kind of students that will make this a more exciting intellectual environment ...," he said.

Students who had hoped to escape the economically over-burdened California State University system by transferring to a private university where class sizes are smaller and easier to get, are now faced with a financial burden which may eliminate their chances entirely.

Daniella Walsh, a Cal State Fullerton Communications senior, who applied to transfer to Chapman next fall said, "I need all the financial help I can get, and I hope the increase doesn't knock me out of the running."

"It seems to me that raising the tuition

isn't going to put them [Chapman] into the big league," she said.

Although continuing students will receive a special grant of \$1,184, offsetting their tuition increase to 6 percent, they will also be hit with student fee increases including a \$100 health fee. It is the first time in Chapman's history that a fee of this type has been required, Doti said.

The health fee will offset the increases in health insurance premiums to \$250, up \$10 dollars from this year, allowing the health center to offer more services, he said.

Dan Tratensek, a continuing student at Chapman University, said that the increases won't have much of an effect on him per se. "But I think it's stupid for a college to raise its prices just because other colleges raise their prices. It seems to me that a good selling point for a private university would be a lower tuition," he said.

Graduate students will not escape tuition increases either. The nearly 800 graduate students will incur increased fees ranging from 6-10 percent depending on the program, Doti said.

Other local private universities have maintained single digit tuition increases for next year.

According to news sources, Stanford is raising its tuition 9.5 percent to \$16,532 from this year's \$15,102, even though it is combating a \$43 million deficit.

University of Redlands, which Chapman most closely associates itself with is planning a 6.8 percent increase to \$14,880, next fall.



## HEALTH: Some students do not pay because they are deemed 'special'

Continued from Page 1

Fees are waived for veterans, some disabled people, and those in the Aid for Families with Dependent Children program, Dobos said.

Students who do not have access to a health center are exempt. This includes those who take classes only on weekends, or only at the Garden Grove campus, which does not have a health center.

More difficult decisions regarding fee waivers involve classes that are part of special programs, Dobos said, like the fire academy or performance groups.

A one-unit jazz band class that meets one night a week was recently changed from exempt to fee-paying status, Dobos said, raising the ire of the instructor, Benjamin Glover.

"I wrote him a note and told him (Dobos) that I thought it was a mistake, because these people never

use the facilities here,"

Glover said. "Why should they have to pay \$7.50 when they're just taking one class?"

Glover also said that these jazz band students are doing the college a favor by their twice-a-year performances for the school and community. "Special people, especially in performance, should not be charged a health fee. It doesn't make sense," he said.

RSC's fire science program also has a history of receiving health fee exemptions for many of its students. Last semester, 2,179 fire science students did not pay the health fee, according to Dobos.

He is evaluating their fee-paying status along with all the others who have been exempt simply because it's been the college's past practice.

While many of these students are exempt because their classes are

off-campus, Richard Keller, deputy chief of the RSC fire academy, said he is concerned about the fairness of any proposed fee changes for those student who do spend time in campus classrooms.

Some students come in for fire officer classes that are less than two weeks long, Keller said. "Requiring them to pay a health fee? I'm sorry, but that's not a reasonable request, because those folks are in and out of here. A majority of them are working some place, and they've got a full-blown medical protection plan."

Although students may not plan on using the student health center, either because they are hardly ever on campus or have their own insurance, Dobos said that the health center is mainly to take care of people that have had an accident.

"Accidents are never planned," he said, recalling times when stu-

dents have received help from the health center and afterwards it was discovered that they had not paid the fee because they were in a waived category.

In an emergency, no one checks to see if the injured person has paid the fee or not, Dobos said.

He hopes to increase the percentage of students paying the fee so that the health center hours can be extended. "We should have medical services available to our students while we are offering classes, from 8 o'clock in the morning to probably 11 o'clock at night," he said.

Anticipating resistance from currently exempt people and programs, Dobos called fairness the criteria by which he would make judgments. "If it's fair to charge them, we will. If it's not fair, those people will remain exempt."

## CHEATING:

Continued from Page 1

students sign it. "When you give a grade it has to reflect the knowledge learned," he said.

An honesty guideline is currently being used by the Pharmacy and Technology program at RSC. Gail Askew, director of the program says that RSC is concerned about this problem in her department because it's a vocational training program.

Askew takes cheating very seriously. "Someone is going to get killed if one of these students who cheated is working in the field and makes a mistake in dispensing the wrong medication," she said.

Another program that won't tolerate cheating at RSC is the Fire and Technology department, according to Joel Gormick coordinator of the department "It's not a problem because fire tech teaches things that are essential for the protection of life and the issue of integrity is a matter of policy," he says.

"We don't have much trouble with cheating, far less than the general population. Fire fighters are innate do-gooders and when you are dealing with life threatening situations you really have to have integrity," he said.

The nursing program at RSC also has a strict code of ethics. According to the director Carol Dutz if it is even suspected that eyes are wondering during an exam, a written warning is given to the student. If it happens again the student is sent to the dean of students. If it happens a third time, the student is kicked out of the program.

When nursing students apply to other schools, they must complete a form explaining why they failed the class. The instructor has to sign it before they are accepted into the program.

"It's everyone's problem and it's a point of pride and a comment on education," said Dutz. "It's mainly the fact that we are dealing with people in a clinical area and it could be someone's life at stake. We have to intervene to protect the patient," Dutz said.

Gary Teigen, a political science instructor at RSC, is taking a dif-

*"If they knew everything before they came here...then why are they here?"*

Gary Teigen

Political Science Instructor

ferent approach in his classrooms. He believes that by giving evaluations, rather than exams, helps them learn. "If they knew everything before they came here...then why are they here?" he said.

Teigen believes that many students feel cheating is a way of survival and some of the faculty assume everyone perceives cheating the same way. There are different perception and cultural values as to what constitutes cheating.

Three major evaluations are given during the course and the students have the opportunity to go over missed answers in class or in private. "A student can be averaging a D or F and end up with an A in the class because the evaluations are used as a tool to tell them what they do not know," he said.

Teigen gives one exam to his class. The final and the three evaluations are not averaged into the grade. They learn it's OK to have trouble or get an F and cheaters only hurt themselves and will be caught on the test because they don't get to learn what they don't know.

There is not a problem with cheating in Teigen's classroom. He believes "Cheating is a classroom management issue...There aren't many classes where the student gets the opportunity to show the instructor what they've learned down the line."

At the "Cheating in the Classroom" luncheon on March 19, RSC faculty members discussed openly their reservations about "Policing" their students.

An instructor who attended said that if she caught someone cheating in her classroom she would let it go because she wouldn't feel comfortable pressing the issue and didn't feel it was her job to police the students.

"You are sending a message by your actions...either it can be done or it will not be allowed," said David Dobos, dean of students.

Next Week Part V

## BUDGET:

Continued from Page 1

faculty, staff and administrators. The general fund also covers such things as books for the libraries, utilities, and rental expenses for off-campus sites.

Ironically, while the college must lay off many employees, those that remain will get a 4.6 percent raise.

This is because the college's contract with the teachers' union requires RSC to keep compensation levels at at least the same level as the ninth best-paying school. A new contract with CSEA, which represents classified employees has a "me too" clause, which requires RSC to raise clas-

sified employees' salaries by the same percentage as the faculty.

Sheryl Miles, who helped negotiate the CSEA contract, said classified employees were passed over the last time RSC employees had a pay raise.

Other community colleges in Orange County will be offering fewer classes this summer than last, so students from those other colleges may want to enroll at RSC this summer, Blevins noted. But RSC is instituting a plan to give continuing students first pick of classes, she said.

Blevins plans to set class levels at 30 students with exceptions for classes that cannot handle as many students. The faculty senate would have to approve this change.

**"TWO THUMBS UP!"**

- SISKEL & EBERT

**"SUBLIME!"**

- Vincent Canby, THE NEW YORK TIMES

**"★★★★ THRILLING!"**

- Bob Campbell, NEWHOUSE NEWSPAPERS

**"A MASTERPIECE!"**

- David Sterritt, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

- Mike Caccioppoli, WABC RADIO

**"MESMERIZING!"**

- Jeffrey Lyons, SNEAK PREVIEWS/WCBS RADIO

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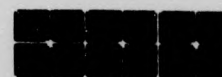
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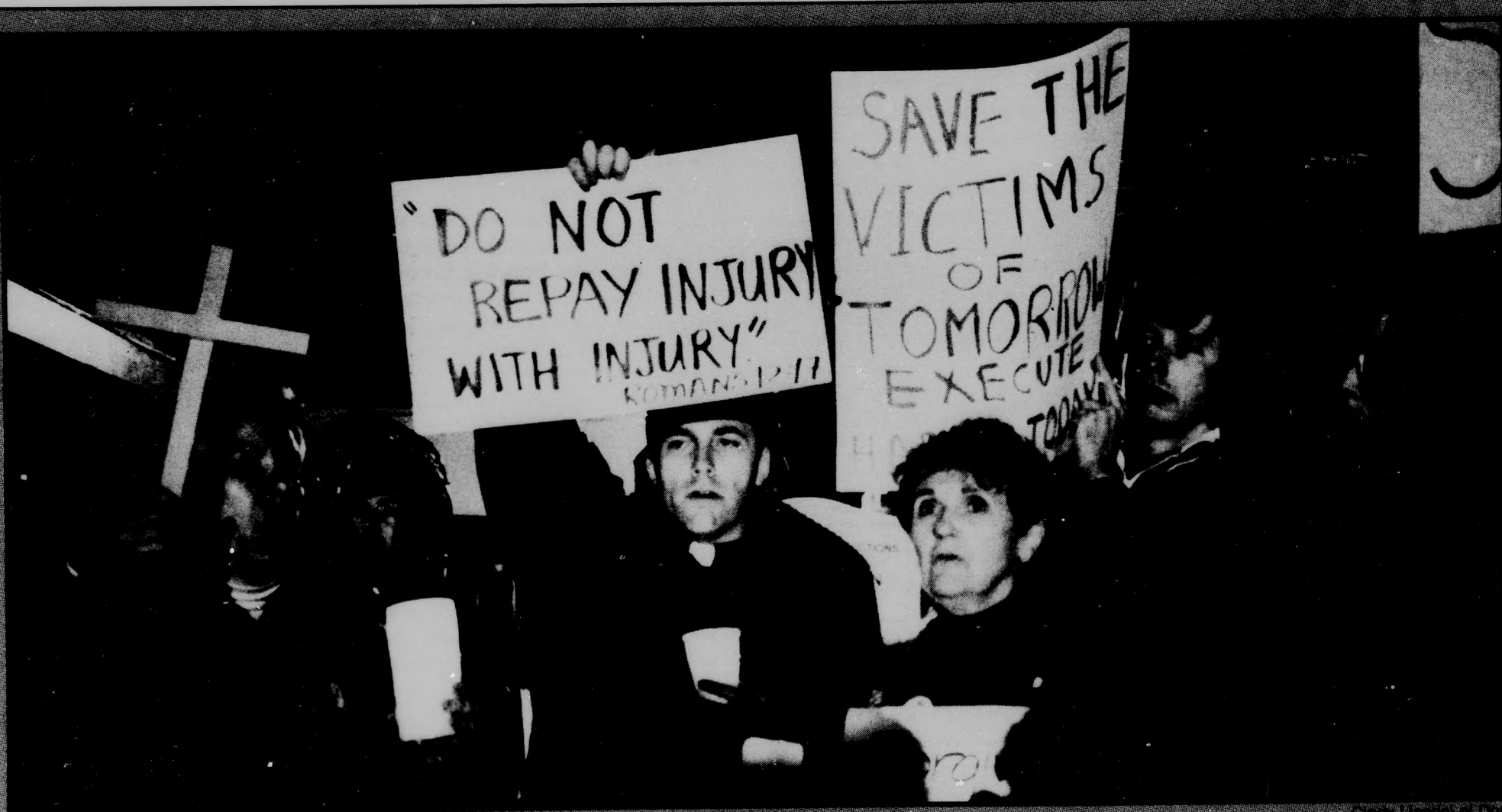
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Cindy Licerio/ el Don

## U.S. Supreme Court halts appeals: Harris executed at dawn

By Julie Wells  
el Don Staff Writer

**SAN QUENTIN** - At 6:21 a.m. Tuesday morning, Robert Alton Harris, 39-year-old convicted murderer, died in San Quentin's gas chamber. It was California's first execution in 25 years.

Harris' execution was delayed six hours and 20 minutes due to four 11th hour stays of execution, all passed down from the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Harris stopped two 16-year-old San Diego boys, 14 years ago, on their way to the lake for a day of fishing. Harris killed the boys and stole their car to use in a bank robbery. Harris was caught and arrested by San Diego detective Steve Baker. Ironically, Baker was the father of one of the victims.

Here is a chronology of Harris' last hours of life:

Harris' first stay of execution, is announced by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, at about 6:30 p.m. Monday evening. The state of California appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the stay.

Shortly after 8 p.m., Harris is served his last meal. His choice: Kentucky Fried Chicken and pizza.

At 10:30 p.m., Harris' second stay comes down from the Court of Appeals. His attorneys claim that execution by gas is an unnecessarily cruel death.

At 11:30 p.m. the Supreme Court dismisses the first stay. At 11:45 p.m. a third is announced by the Court of Appeals.

Midnight comes and goes without the death of Harris.

The Supreme Court dismisses the second stay at 2:30 a.m. and a half an hour later dissolves the third stay.

At 3:50 a.m., Harris is walked

somberly into a small, green room and strapped into the chair. The acid is released and Harris looks down between his legs and awaits seemingly eminent death.

The phone rings at 4:01 a.m. A fourth stay of execution is handed down and Harris is released from the straps and taken into his cell.

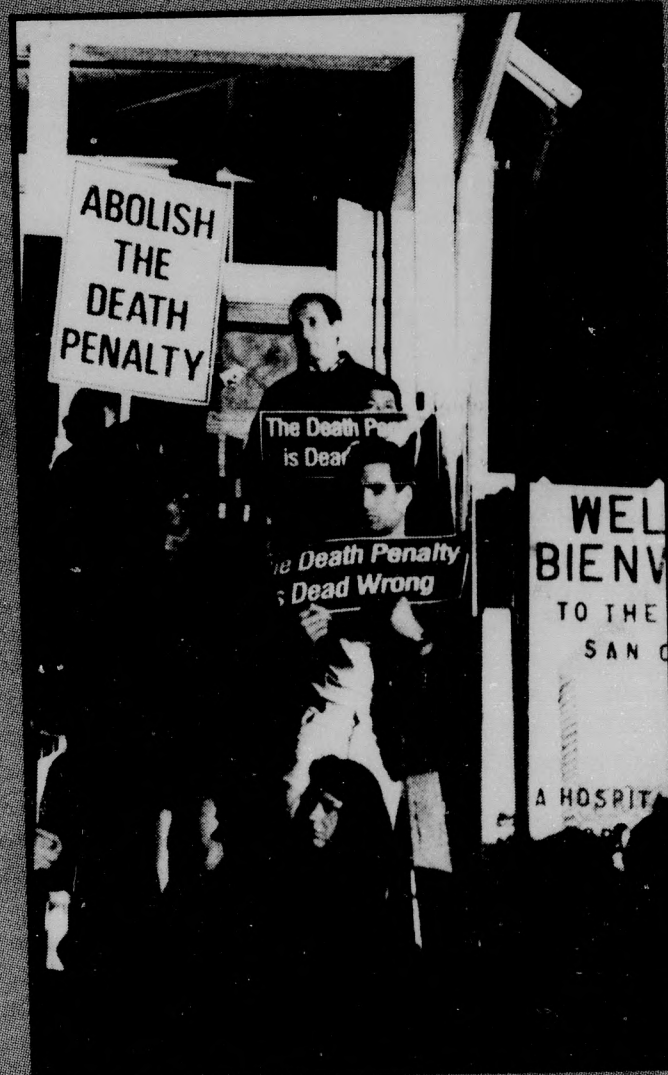
At 5:50 a.m. the final stay is dissolved by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Family and friends of the two murdered boys and of Harris gather in the small room next to the gas chamber to view the execution.

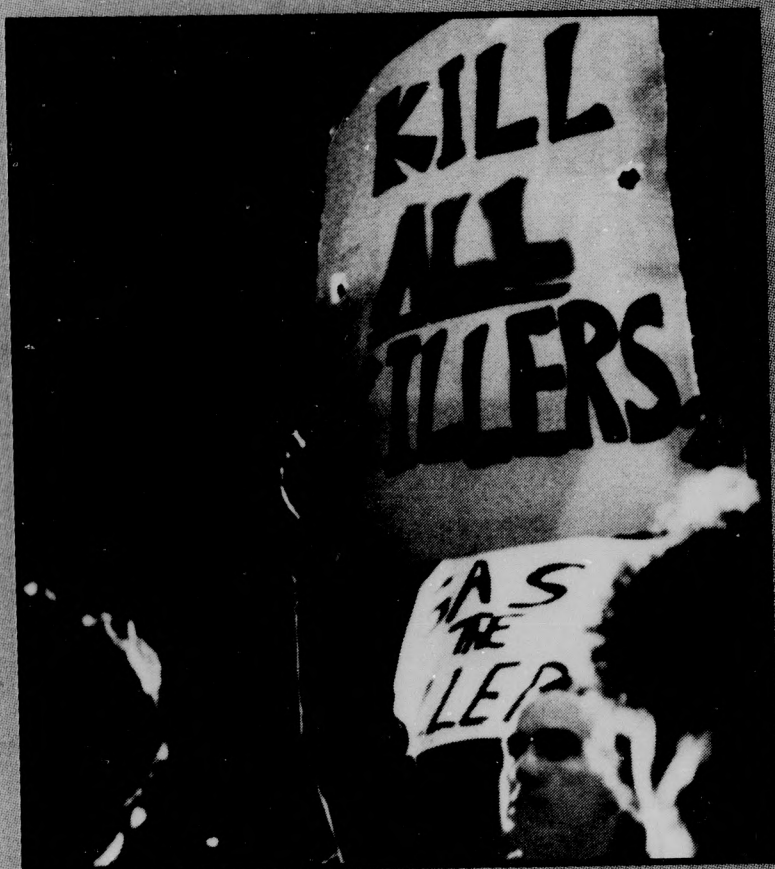
Just before the gas and acid is dropped, Harris takes one last look around, eyes Detective Baker and mouths the words, "I'm sorry."

His apology was acknowledged with a nod.

At 6:21 a.m. Robert Alton Harris is declared dead.



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## Feature

## HAPPY CAMPERS

By Debi Carr  
el Don Staff Writer

**GARDEN GROVE-** Some people say you can't beat the system.

Others say there is no system.

But the Girls Club of Garden Grove is at least maneuvering around it.

Recently, they opened up an afternoon day camp in one of the worst Barrios in Orange County - Buena Clinton. And in this day camp, lies the hope that the Youth Learning Center will beat the system and make a difference for some of the children who live in this neighborhood.

With four full-time paid staff members, a donated facility from St. Joseph's Hospital of Orange, and a handful of volunteers, the Youth Learning Center now provides afternoon activities which keep about 85 children fully supervised and off the streets.

Zane Smith, director of the site said, "Before we started this center, the majority of these kids hung out at a nearby liquor store."

"We certainly aren't your traditional day care center. The center, primarily was designed to There is so little parental involvement, that we only have three signed permission slips on file. Most of these kids just walk in off the street after school."

Smith said the first week of operation was rather dismal. In fact, they had no children.

The problem, he said, was that no one knew we were here. "We had to get the message out." He said that bilingual volunteers walked door to door and passed out flyers in the neighborhood.

By the end of the second week, about 26 children had found the center and now 75 children come back on a regular basis.

Although there is no marked occupancy sign in the children's center, Smith says that they try not to allow more than 75 children to stay in the facility at any one time. "We usually ship the overflow to the park with a staff member."

Because we are so unconventional, "we are still trying to establish guidelines for this type of facility," Smith said. Even though the center is open from 1-6p.m., "we have a shut-off entry time of 3:15p.m. After that, no children are admitted unless they bring a parent to sign them in... or bring homework with them."

Smith said when the center closes at 6p.m. only a couple of parents show up to retrieve

**Buena Clinton Youth Learning Center is a unique day camp where education comes first**



their children. Many of the kids leave just the way they came. Alone.

As with all programs which depend on volunteers to continue their service, The Youth Learning Center is always looking for more. They would like to see college students volunteer to share their talents with the children.

The center operates with a weekly crew of 25. Volunteers number about six to seven

per day, each of them donating two afternoons per week.

About five volunteers are affiliated with Rancho Santiago College. One of which is Yvonne de Guzman. A student majoring in comparative cultures, de Guzman began volunteering at the Youth Learning Center about three months ago. Since then, she has been appointed to a full-time staff position.

According to deGuzman most of the chil-

dren who attend the center are illiterate. Although they may speak a language, they are unable to read or write. She said that the Youth Learning Center was designed to improve these children's educational skills. deGuzman said she thinks illiteracy is the reason that parents have so little communication with the center.

"Most of the children come to us for attention. They like the one-on-one we provide. It's something they don't get at home," deGuzman said.

Elva Glover, a grandmother who checks up on her grandsons, Matthew Flores and Andrew Davis, a couple of times a day said, "The kids just love it here. It is good for them."

Some of the companies in the area have really focused on cleaning up the community, through their community outreach programs, Smith said.

SHUR-flo, for instance, provides one-on-one tutoring for children who need it, in the company's conference room, on Monday afternoons. SHUR-flo has also provided jobs for many of the residents of the Buena Clinton area, he said.

St. Joseph's Hospital of Orange began the youth center, but last year the hospital decided that their focus should be more on health care for the poor than on child day care, according to Jan Wolf, hospital spokesperson.

According to Wolf, the hospital approached the Girls Club of Garden Grove and asked them to take over the youth center if St. Joseph Hospital would continue to provide the facility space until the end of this school year.

Because the center is gaining such popularity, the facility is already becoming too small to accommodate the children.

The center plans on moving to Clinton Elementary School this summer, although a date hasn't actually been set. deGuzman said the new facility, mostly portable buildings, will be able to accommodate about 150 kids and will also include a day care center.

To make the transition from one location to the next, deGuzman had the children bring in old clothes. She provided a loom and together the children have fashioned a wall hanging which will decorate the new facility. Along with the changes comes a new name "Clinton Kids Club."



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## STAFF EDITORIALS

## Ecology: We can't just 'let George do it'

For more than 20 years ecologists have attempted to instill in us a respect for our planet's health through Earth Day. We didn't listen. And now our planet is sick. So sick, in fact, that it may never recover.

Dr. David Suzuki, professor at the University of British Columbia, Canada, thinks that in 30 years there will be no wilderness on the entire planet, only handkerchief size pieces of obligatory preserves. Just enough for humans to visit, look at and remember. He says we are losing two species per hour because of our selfish consumption of land.

With more than 90 million babies born on this earth each year we are now in exponential growth, and quickly consuming our resources. And while we consume, we are dumping millions of pounds of toxins into the air, water and land. According to Suzuki, 40 percent of the people, those in developed countries, are using up 80 percent of the resources.

In fact we, in Southern California, breath unhealthy air 232 days each year. The average family of four generates more than 2,000 pounds of trash, with each of us generating 160 pounds of hazardous waste per year. Collectively, Southern California dumps about 14 billion pounds of garbage into the ocean each and every year.

Because of our dependency on the automobile, our trees must consume 15 times more carbon dioxide than rural trees.

To sustain a habitable environment for our children and grandchildren, we all must conserve . . . everything. Earth Day must no longer be observed once a year, but every single day.

## Register now so you can vote in June

If it is true that people get the kind of government they deserve, then we're in trouble.

Democracy seems to be busting out all over--except in the good ole U.S. of A. All over the world, people long denied the right to self-government are celebrating their new-found freedoms, or struggling to join the ranks of free people. Yet in the United States, voter enthusiasm is at an all time low.

If you haven't registered to vote, do so now, before it's too late. Then, make sure you vote—early and often. Remember that not only the general election in November, but the June primary is important. Not only will voter in June decide which candidates will be listed on the November ballot, they will also decide several proposition that will not even appear in the November ballot.

The voter registration deadline for the June 3 primary is May 4. Voter application forms can be obtained from most post offices and public libraries. Those desiring assistance can call the Deputy Clerk of the Council at Santa Ana City Hall during regular business hours at 647-6520.

Remember: if you don't vote, you have no right to complain. And if you don't register, you can't vote.



William Stewart Thomblison

## Should homelessness be a crime?

I've heard that the church is in trouble. I'm not surprised.

Far too often the church has forsaken its proper function. The church is, or at least is supposed to be, the body of Christ. And that means, at least in part, that it is to do Christ's work here on earth. Sometimes it is called to be Christ's arms, or legs, or back. Sometimes it is called to be his voice.

Yet, last year, when the city of Santa Ana rounded-up the homeless residents of the civic center, arresting them on trumped-up charges, the church was silent.

Newspapers editorialized. Lawyers came to the defense of the civic center denizens, eventually not only getting the charges against them dismissed, but winning hefty cash awards. Individual Christians spoke out. But not a single organized religious body condemned the city's action.

There is evidence that the city is preparing for another attack on the impoverished. This time, however, the church might not be so quiet.

City officials and church leaders have been meeting to discuss the growing problem of homelessness.

The two groups do not see eye to eye.

The churches have been feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, helping the unemployed find jobs.

The city, on the other hand, was preparing to build a new jail—and to lease a temporary jail until the permanent facility was ready. Apparently, the city officials did not bother to tell the clergy of its plan. Not that the subject of jails did not come up. According to some who attended the meetings, Santa Ana city manager David Ream told the clergymen that the city did not have a homeless population when it had its own jail and that a new jail would certainly help solve the problem.

Ream, I've been told, also said that the city might enact an ordinance outlawing "camping" in the city. And he threatened one church with legal action for occasionally offering shelter to the homeless on cold or rainy nights.

Now eight clergymen, representing six Santa Ana congregations, have signed an open letter to the city council suggesting ways to help the homeless. (See letters to the editor, below.)

The suggestions are really quite modest. They range from studying what other cities are doing to help the homeless to buying and renovating the old YMCA building and helping to organize county-wide shelters.

I don't know what city officials think of the suggestions. But I think I have a pretty good idea of what a higher authority thinks of them.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Eight downtown pastors appeal for justice for homeless

From conversations with city officials and newspaper articles, we understand the City Council is considering re-establishing a city jail and enacting a no-camping ordinance.

We empathize with the dilemma the City Council and all of us face with the growing number of homeless people in Santa Ana. Like you, we encounter people sleeping, defecating, urinating and begging all around us. We see the fear and anger within other people and sometimes feel it ourselves. We agree that the lack of jail space gives license to disorder and petty crimes. We know homelessness is a county-wide problem and deplore many of the cities in Orange County trying to dump their social problems on our doorstep.

We commend the city's efforts to care for the homeless through their support of the YWCA Hotel for Women and the relocation of the Orange County Rescue Mission.

However, before we enact more laws and establish ways to enforce them, can we try, again and again if necessary, to work together as a community and as a county to find more positive ways to deal with homeless people? Laws and jails alone will not solve this problem: they will merely move it.

We suggest:

1. Approving the Redevelopment Commission's recommendation that the City purchase the YMCA building and oversee its conversion into an SRO [Single Room Occupancy]

for low income people.

2. Investigating how other cities, such as San Diego and San Jose, serve their homeless population.
3. Inviting other cities to band together to establish and jointly fund regional shelters for the homeless. David Ream [Santa Ana city manager] told us he tried to initiate this plan once, but with little success. Perhaps now municipalities will be more receptive, especially if they now Santa Ana will enact and enforce laws to displace the homeless if these municipalities will not cooperate.
4. Convening representatives from groups and churches that work with the homeless all across this county, along with homeless people themselves, and asking them to devise and work to implement county-wide solutions to this problem.

We and the congregations and denomination we serve stand ready, not just to suggest, but to help. We will serve as a convener and/or mediator between diverse groups in Santa Ana such as Legal Aid, the City Council, neighborhood associations and service providers. We will mobilize churches all across Orange County to urge their elected city and county officials to join Santa Ana in establishing more regional shelters.

Everyone needs a home. We agree that a makeshift tent in downtown Santa Ana is not the place, but we also agree that some place must be found. We hope you agree, too, and together we will find creative, caring solutions to this problem.

Sincerely,

Keith Ackman,  
Associate Pastor, First Methodist  
Ken Heaton, Pastor, First Methodist  
Richard Irving,  
Pastor, First Congregational  
Brad Karelius, Rector,  
Episcopal Church of the Messiah  
Mike Pulsifer,  
Pastor, First Presbyterian  
Mark Schipul, Pastor, First Baptist  
Bryan Smith,  
Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian  
Chris Smith, Pastor, St. Joseph

#### Free HIV testing, counseling available

To the Editor, el Don:

I would just like to share my concern with you for this type of HIV testing [advertised in *el Don*, March 27]. Not only the issue of the charge, but the fact that there is no follow-up counseling for those who are found to be positive and how alone and hopeless and helpless they might feel. Free HIV testing [is available] across the street from the campus at the Orange County Health Department and follow-up care and counseling is offered to those who are positive.

The issuing of a "card" which may or may not be dated can give someone a false sense of security and therefore allow them to engage in "risky behaviors" with someone with whom they might have taken greater precautions.

Arlene Warco,  
Acting Coordinator, Health & Wellness Center

### RANCHO SANTIAGO COLLEGE *el Don*

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*El Don* encourages expression of all views. Letters should be brief and to the point. All letters must include the author's student identification number. We will not print pseudonyms or initials. Because of space and volume, unpublished letters will not be acknowledged. Letters to *el Don* may be delivered to the Fine Arts Building, room C-201, or mailed to RSC *el Don*, Letters to the editor, 17th at Bristol streets, Santa Ana, CA 92706.

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By F. Colin Kingston  
el Don Editor in Chief

## Reflections on the death of Robert Alton Harris

The execution had a profound affect on me. I was once very much in favor of the death penalty. Now, however, I am very much against it.

I understand the reasons why people support the death penalty. Violent crime is on the upswing and people feel helpless. Putting someone to death may make them feel better. It does not solve anything.

One argument in support of the death penalty is that it will make people think twice about committing violent crimes. But many violent crimes, such as drive-by shootings, present an immediate threat of death to the perpetrators. This does little to discourage them from committing these heinous acts. If the prospect of immediate death does not scare them how can the threat of being put to death many years later scare them?

The only person the death penalty prevents from committing another violent crime is the person who is being put to death. Life in prison, without the possibility of parole, would achieve the same end and the state wouldn't have to murder to achieve it.

When it comes right down to it—the biggest reason most people support the death penalty is revenge. I don't believe a civilized society should resort to revenge in order to address its problems. Don't get me wrong, I think there are some criminals

who should never be allowed back into society again. immediately come to mind. They should be kept under lock and key for the rest of their lives.

I don't like the idea of the state having the right to kill anybody. It makes no difference if the killer is a hoodlum or the state. The effect is the same. So is the intent. Call it an execution, call it capitol punishment. It is still murder and murder is wrong.

My biggest reason for opposing the death penalty is there is the possibility we will execute the wrong person.

The justice system (and I use the term "justice" very loosely) is run by human beings and human beings make mistakes. Putting a person behind bars and finding out years later that they are innocent is bad enough. What do you do if you find out that a person you executed is innocent? Some will say the percentage of mistakes is small compared to the sheer volume of cases. I say once is one too many times.

Our legal system is based on the theory that it is better to let 100 guilty people go free than to punish one innocent person. It is a theory I subscribe to. Unfortunately, recent trends indicate that it too is being put to death.

By Jeanne Barkemeijer de Wit  
el Don Staff Writer

We are just beginning to see the effects of desensitization to the horrors of killing.

America isn't the safe place to live it used to be. Not even Orange County is immune to violence. People are tired of all the senseless killings. There is a hardness descending on America, extending even to the U.S. Supreme Court. But I was appalled by the court's lack of compassion toward Robert Alton Harris and the chaotic and disorganized way his execution was carried out.

Why, after almost fourteen years, couldn't the Supreme Court have waited a bit longer? Why did it feel it had to take the unprecedented step of ordering the Ninth Circuit Court to not hear any further appeals? After all this time, what was so urgent about this particular man's execution that Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and other members of the Supreme court have to stay up all night? Would justice not as well been served by waiting one more day?

I became physically ill listening to descriptions of how Harris had sat strapped in the gas chamber for almost a quarter of an hour waiting to die. That the Supreme Court

would then force him to return two hours after being taken out is beyond comprehension. It goes without saying that his suffered cruel and unusual punishment. The way Harris was handled was positively brutal, in my mind at least.

Although I'm appalled by the murders committed by Harris, I find it difficult to believe that his death or the deaths of murderers like him will ever accomplish anything positive for society. Rather than lobby for more executions, we would be better served by making an effort to find the causes of the tremendous increase in violence in recent years.

If California decides to retain the death penalty, serious consideration should be given to some alternate form of execution such as lethal injection. If we are to lower ourselves to the levels of those who have killed among us, can't we at least do so with a modicum of compassion?

The family survivors of the boys killed by Harris say they are happy now, justice has been done.

Sadly, the cycle of abuse continues unabated. The next Robert Alton Harris could be lying in a neonatal intensive care unit right now. The number of drug and alcohol damaged babies born each year is staggering. How many more lives must be destroyed before we try to correct the problems which allowed a person like Harris to be created in the first place?

## U.S. Supreme Court case may result in weakening of abortion rights

By Amy Reynolds  
Special to el Don

(CPS) - On April 22, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in a Pennsylvania abortion case that could overturn or more strictly limit existing abortion rights spelled out in *Roe v. Wade*.

The case is *Planned Parenthood of Southern Pennsylvania v. Casey*. The Supreme Court will most likely rule in July.

Pennsylvania law requires women to notify their husbands of their decision to have an abortion. Other requirements include a 24-hour waiting period, detailed record-keeping by doctors of each abortion performed, which would be subject to public disclosure, and that doctors tell women about fetal development and alternatives to abortion.

An appeals court upheld the constitutionality of the Pennsylvania law in all areas except a spousal notification, which it said placed an "undue burden" on the woman by taking away her power to decide.

"Undue burden" is a phrase used frequently in abortion cases by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. The term refers to people's power to decide privacy issues for themselves.

For example, the court says that spousal notification violates the standard of undue burden because a woman could not obtain an abortion if her husband refused to agree to the procedure.

But parental notification in the case of minors does not violate the undue burden standard because every law dealing with parental notification upheld by the court has a clause that gives the minor a way around the notification. In nearly all cases, that loophole is petitioning a court either for permission to get an abortion or for permission to not seek pa-

rental approval of the abortion.

According to Ann Massie, law professor at Washington and Lee University, the undue burden standard is the one on which most of the abortion cases hinge.

"What [O'Connor] means and what [the appeals court] means when they cite O'Connor is that if the requirement doesn't impose an undue burden on the right of the woman, then the requirement must appear reasonable to the state," Massie says. "If it appears reasonable, then [the requirement] can be upheld. That allows the state wide latitude. But if it does impose an undue burden, then you have to go back to *Roe v. Wade*."

That's why many fear *Roe v. Wade* will eventually be reversed.

Most activists don't expect the Pennsylvania case to overturn *Roe v. Wade* because of the upcoming election. But Massie and others note that the requirements the court is considering in this case are a major departure from the abortion cases heard in the past few years, the most noted (*Rust v. Sullivan*) dealing with federally funded family planning centers and the type of information they can give women about abortion.

The major departures in the Pennsylvania case deal with the information a doctor must give patients and the 24-hour waiting period.

"There are two parts to the information requirement," Massie explains. "First, either a doctor or referring physician must tell the woman of the nature of the procedure, the risk of having an abortion, the medical risk of carrying the child to term and the gestation period of the fetus."

"Also, someone must tell the woman that the Pennsylvania Department of Health has pamphlets about the unborn

child and its development. They must also tell the woman of her options, including the fact that the father could be held liable for financial assistance or that the woman could be eligible for prenatal care through the state.

"Finally, they must certify that all this information has been given to the woman," Massie says.

"It's another assault on *Roe v. Wade*, like *Webster*, where the states are trying to pass more restrictive legislation," Massie says. "The decisions of the past few years haven't been major departures from the past rulings, but they've tended in the direction of showing greater tolerance for restrictions."

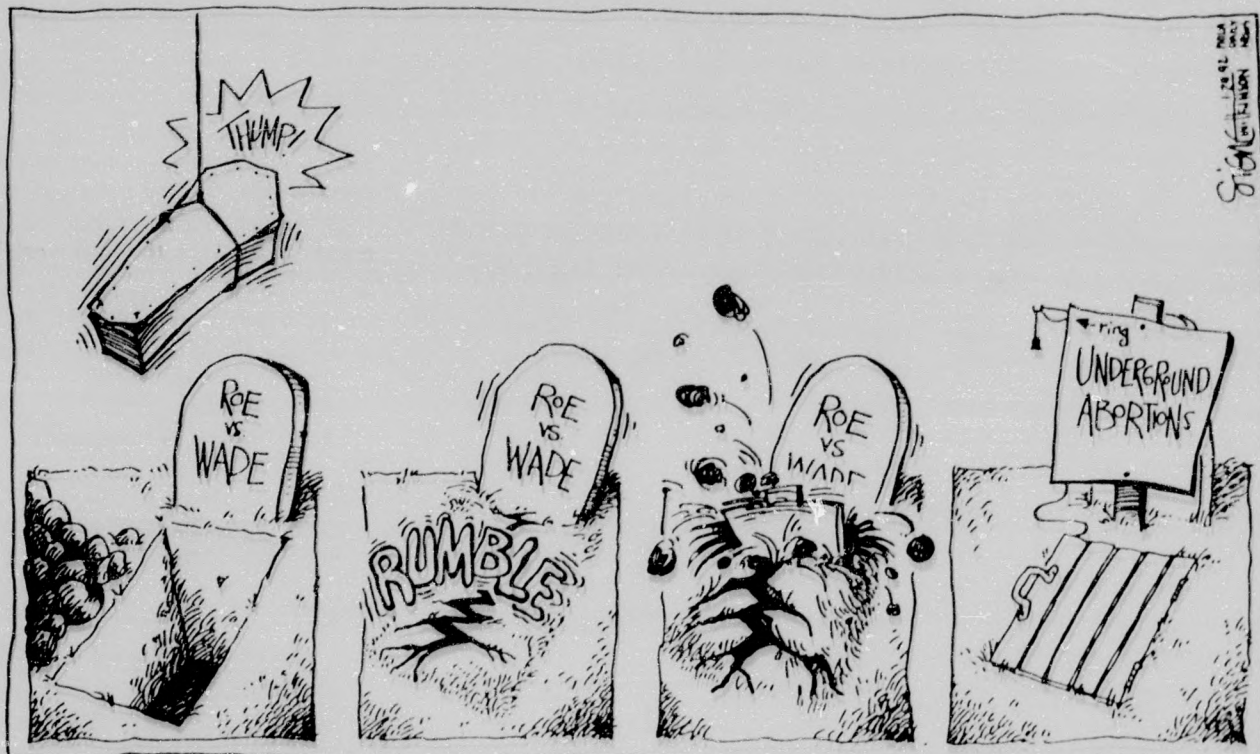
In *Webster v. Reproductive Services* the Supreme Court granted states wider latitude to regulate abortions.

After the Pennsylvania case, the battle against *Roe v. Wade* could become increasingly stronger. Louisiana and Utah have major anti-abortion laws headed toward the Supreme Court that basically provide a direct challenge to the rights guaranteed in *Roe v. Wade*.

Pro-life activists are pushing to have *Roe v. Wade* overturned and then will focus on convincing individual states to limit abortions.

Pro-choice activists say they don't want a state-by-state fight if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. Rather, they are lobbying Congress for passage of the Freedom of choice Act, federal legislation that would set a national standard for abortion protection based on the principles established by *Roe v. Wade*.

President Bush says that if re-elected he will veto the bill if it makes it to his desk. Activists on both sides say they aren't sure whether or not enough congressional members support the measure to override a veto.





## THEY SAID IT...

"I try not to think about my record. As far as I'm concerned, my record is 0-0."  
- RSC pitcher Mike Fontana after beating Riverside 14-2 on April 9 to earn his ninth win of the season against no losses.

## RANCHO SANTIAGO COLLEGE

*el Don*

*Sports*

## IT'S A FACT

Mike Schwabe holds the RSC single-season pitching record for most wins with 13, set in 1986. Through games of April 20, Mike Fontana has won 10 and could set a new mark during the playoffs.

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## SPORTS WIRE

### Ruhe honored for men's basketball media guide

Dale Ruhe, RSC's Public Information Coordinator, was awarded first place for his 1991-92 men's basketball media guide in the California Community College Public Relations Organization's annual PRO Awards competition. It is the second straight year that Ruhe has won the top prize in the sports publications category.

In March, Ruhe took third place for the same media guide in the Paragon Awards sponsored by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations.

Ruhe, who joined the RSC staff in 1989, has won seven state and national awards for media guides and sports writing.

### Barron named Head Football Coach at Laguna Beach

Mike Barron, offensive line coach at RSC since 1990, has resigned to become head football coach at Laguna Beach High School. Barron, who also taught physical education at RSC, takes over an Artists team which finished 2-8 last season.

Barron previously was head coach at Duarte (1974-79), Rancho Alamitos (1979-83), Buena Park (1986-87) and Santiago (1987-90). He also spent two years (1985-86) as head football and track coach at West Hills College in Coalinga.

No successor has been named.

### Corona del Mar HS hires Stewart as girls' VB coach

RSC mens' volleyball coach Lance Stewart has been named girls' volleyball coach at Corona del Mar High School. However, Stewart will continue to lead the mens' program at RSC, which plays a spring schedule. Girls' volleyball at the high school level is played in the fall.

Stewart coached the boys' and girls' teams at Laguna Beach High School from 1988-91 and was an assistant mens' coach at UC Irvine last year. He took over at RSC this season, the Dons' first in the tough South Coast Conference.

### LA Rams to appear in celebrity charity basketball game May 2

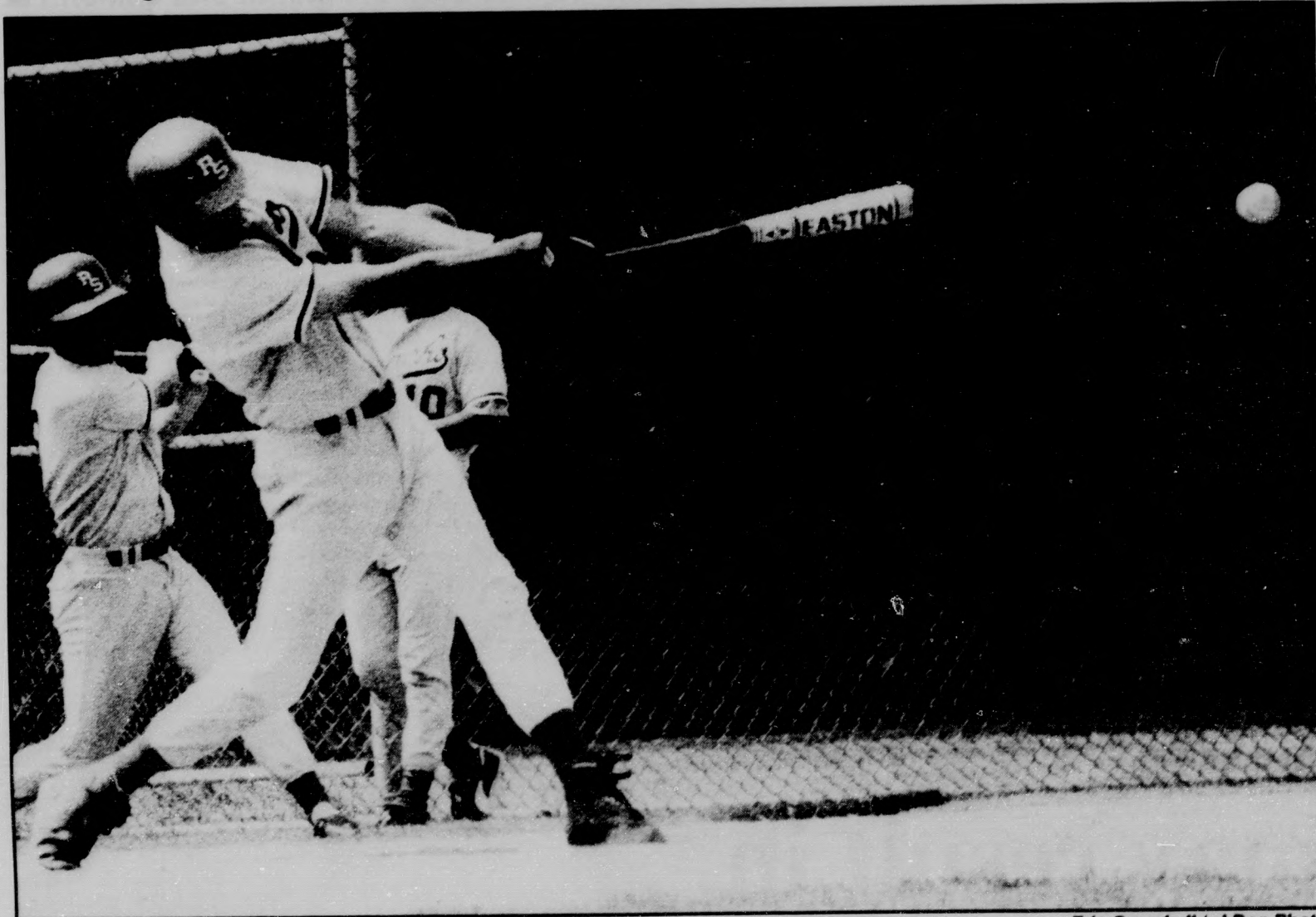
The LA Rams meet the RSC staff at Bill Cook Gym May 2. Pre-game at 7 p.m. with tip-off at 7:30.

Organizers of the event promise games, prizes, food and free Ram autographs for all fans attending.

Tickets are available at the Student Activities Office. For information, call 564-6210 or 632-9644.

## Dons in home stretch, lead by two

■ Pitching and hitting are keys as RSC closes in on second straight OEC baseball title



Eric Campbell / el Don Photo

**HOT SMASH** - RSC first baseman Chris Lugo drives a base hit during an early-season home game against Fullerton. Hornets have taken three out of four games from the Dons but trail RSC by five games in the evenly-balanced OEC.

By Ev Phillips  
el Don Sports Editor

Rancho Santiago (23-10, 14-5) enters the home stretch of the Orange Empire Conference baseball race with a two-game lead over second place Riverside (24-10, 12-7) with just five games to play.

The Dons lead third place Orange Coast (18-12, 9-9) by four and a half games and have a virtual lock on one of two automatic OEC bids to the playoffs. But head coach Don Sneddon is taking nothing for granted. "We did ourselves a favor by sweeping Riverside before Easter, but it's not over yet," he said. "Riverside can still

get hot and we can be beaten."

Sneddon was referring to the big 7-2 and 14-2 wins over the Tigers earlier this month which were followed by a 2-1 loss to fourth-place Fullerton on April 11. It was the third time in four games the Hornets had stung the Dons, proving Sneddon's point that this is the most competitive OEC race in years.

Pitching has been RSC's strong suit so far. The Dons lead the conference with a 2.71 team ERA, led by sophomore righthanders Mike Fontana (10-0, 1.44) and J.J. Thobe (6-3, 2.13). David Goldstein has improved to 4-5 and has 80 strikeouts in 69 innings.

Several Dons are among the conference hitting leaders. David Gonzalez is at .439

with one HR and 18 RBI's. Jeff Richardson (.419, 1-9), Aaron Butler (.407, 3-17) and Robin Lindsey (.364, 5-19) have helped push RSC's team batting average to .310.

RSC began the final two weeks of the conference season Tuesday at Cypress and Thursday against Golden West. The Dons entertain Saddleback on Tuesday and OCC Thursday before closing out the schedule next Saturday at Riverside in a noon game that could decide the conference championship.

The playoffs follow on the next two weekends.

## Lady Dons still in hunt for playoff berth

By Ricky Robinson  
el Don Staff Writer

**SANTA ANA** - Celeste Gordon evened her record at 8-8 as the Lady Dons finished their nonconference softball schedule with a 2-1 win over visiting San Diego Mesa Monday.

RSC (18-16, 11-7) took an early 2-0 lead in the second inning and did not give up a run until the sixth. By defeating the Lady Olympians, RSC doubled its number of victories over last year.

The win follows the Lady Dons' fourth-place finish in the College of the Sequoias Tournament last week. Freshman catcher Amy Lewis hit a three-run homer to help RSC win the tournament opener 6-3 over Porterville. Sophomore lefthander Gordon pitched a complete game, allowing just three hits.

RSC dropped the second game to Chabot 3-2, but bounced back with an 8-5 win over Cabrillo. Third baseman Teri Henning was the hitting star with three hits and three RBIs. Host College of the Sequoias then eliminated the Lady Dons 5-0 as RSC managed just three hits. Second baseman Shannon O'Rourke was named to the All-Tournament team. O'Rourke batted .455 with two RBIs and two stolen bases.

Commenting on the Lady Dons' turnaround this year, head coach Kim Nutter said, "It's quite an accomplishment for these girls to have a winning record this season, but it's not enough. We have a chance for the post-season and that would also be a great accomplishment."

RSC must defeat the three teams ahead of them in the OEC standings in order to

make the playoffs. Orange Coast leads with a 14-3 record, followed by Cypress (12-4) and Riverside (11-5). The Lady Dons are 11-7.

The next home games for RSC are Riverside on Monday and OCC on Wednesday.

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Hayfever? Allergist in Orange is conducting a study on an investigational drug for allergic rhinitis. If you have any hayfever symptoms in the spring, are twelve yrs. or older, you could qualify to participate. You will be reimbursed for your time and effort. Call 771-7997 and ask for Karen.